

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th March 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta ...	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	175	
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong ...	600	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto ...		
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye ...	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta ...	700	2nd March 1880.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...		5th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	671	2nd ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta ...	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān ...	296	2nd and 9th March 1880.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	350	7th March 1880.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	745	5th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca ...	300	6th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjika"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye... ..	200	3rd ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	400	
16	"Medinī"	Midnapore ...	250	3rd ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...		
18	"Navavibhakar"	Calcutta ...	850	8th ditto.
19	"Pratikar"	Berhampore ...	275	5th ditto.
20	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore ...	250	4th ditto.
21	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	500	7th ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	500	1st ditto.
23	"Samālochak"	Ditto ...	1,000	
24	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad ...	350	
25	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh ...	260	1st ditto.
26	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta ...	4,000	6th ditto.
27	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore ...	300	
28	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet ...	440	1st ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
29	"Samāchār Sudhavarshan"	Calcutta ...		
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Samvād Prabhakar"	Ditto ...	700	3rd to 6th and 10th and 11th March 1880.
31	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	8th to 12th March 1880.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	4th to 11th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	500	
34	"Prabhāti"	Ditto ...		5th to 9th ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	487	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	365	6th March 1880.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	4th ditto.
38	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	500	4th and 11th March 1880.
39	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto ...	157	3rd ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	

POLITICAL.

SANACHAR,
March 1st, 1880.

Executions in Cabul.

REFERRING to the memorandum published by the Press Commissioner's Office on the executions in Cabul, the *Sanachar*, of the 1st March, makes the following observations:—The Cabul executions created a great deal of agitation, and, like our other contemporaries, we expressed our wonder and regret at the occurrence. The Government of India has since bowed to the authority of public opinion and dissolved the Military Commission. Until the publication of the memorandum, the people, however, continued to view the late proceedings of General Roberts with dislike. This document therefore ought to have been published earlier; as it is, we are obliged, in consequence of the statements contained in it, to modify our opinion to a certain extent. There can be no doubt that the severity of the action adopted by the British General was in a great measure due to the savage and treacherous character of the enemy he had to deal with. It is idle to require only one of the belligerent parties to conform to the laws of civilized warfare. Considering that the Afghans do not give quarter to the wounded, General Roberts, we hold, was justified in punishing those of the enemy who were convicted of having killed and wounded British soldiers. He was equally justified in his decision regarding those who had taken any part in the attack upon the Residency. These men did not deserve any pardon. But the hanging of persons who were simply found to be in possession of any article belonging to the Residency was not so justifiable. It is quite possible that some at least of these men had purchased the objectionable article at a fair price; nor do we see how those who had instigated the people to take up arms against the invaders could be considered as deserving of punishment. They did what every other people would do under similar circumstances. The sooner therefore Government gives up the plea of rebellion against these men, the better it is for them. It behoves Government to recognize Mahomed Jan and the old patriot Mollah Muski Allum as worthy foes. There will be no prospect of a speedy termination of the war if it is proclaimed that they are condemned to die; nor is this desirable. Government should cease to use the words "rebel" and "rebellion" regarding these men and their acts.

BHARAT MIHIR,
March 2nd, 1880.

2. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Bhārat Mihir* of the 2nd March:—This poor country would hardly be able to pay the cost of

The cost of the Afghan war.
the Afghan war, amounting to very nearly ten crores of rupees, if she were called upon to do so. However large the amount, we would not have still complained if the charge had been a just one. But India cannot equitably be called upon to pay it. The Afghan war was not undertaken in her interests. Its object was, according to Lord Beaconsfield himself, to enhance the prestige of England. We do not attach much importance to the supposition that India has ever been in any great danger of a Russian invasion. The present Russophobic Ministry is responsible for having raised this outcry. Even if it had any foundation, we are convinced that the war will not diminish the chances of a Russian invasion. According to Sir John Strachey, this Afghan war is one which every loyal subject of the British Government must regard as having been undertaken for the safety of India. Now, loyalty is a spontaneous feeling, and it were really desirable that those alone were required to pay the cost of the Afghan war who took this view of the case. We, however, apprehend one injurious consequence from this reference to loyalty. It is this, that they who may be opposed to the view that India is liable for the cost of this war will probably be set down as disloyal; and thus the inducement offered of displaying loyalty on the one hand, and the fear of being regarded as disloyal on the other, will be of great

service to Government in realizing the cost from the people. According to Government's own ruling, India cannot justly be held liable for the costs of a war, the scene of which lies beyond her borders. Why is this ruling now to be set aside? Government worships the idol of self-interest. If half the amount which is now proposed to be taken from this country had been spent on the construction of public works in it, or in undertaking measures for the prevention of famines, we might have seen a different state of things.

3. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 6th March, observes that, by conferring the title of "Maharajah" upon the Rajah of Cooch Behar, Government has insulted rather than honored him. The head of the Cooch Behar family has for many generations enjoyed this title. The distribution of these honors would seem to have become a childish sport. The Maharajah of Kashmere and Maharajah Kamalkrishna are indeed equal in their status! Government has made puppets of fools.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
March 6th, 1880.

4. The following is contained in the concluding paragraph of an article in the *Dacca Prakash* of the 7th March:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 7th, 1880.

Cabul affairs. We cannot tell when this disagreeable affair will be brought to an end. The British army it would seem is not to part with the orchards of Cabul so soon. There is no knowing what waste of blood and treasure there must be in this war. The cost is likely to reach the high figure of ten crores, and Sir Stafford Northcote has not yet been able to decide whether England should be called upon to bear a portion thereof. Lord Cranbrook declined to produce certain correspondence regarding Cabul, the production of which was demanded by the Duke of Argyll. It is difficult to see through the policy of Government. But whatever devices may be resorted to, or whatever political moves adopted, one thing is clear that, unless there were a speedy termination of hostilities, there could be no good to this country. And we must observe in conclusion that the only way in which India could have any chance of being benefited would be by the downfall of the present Conservative Ministry, and the retirement of Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey.

5. The same paper dwells on the utility of the Native States in maintaining the prestige and authority of the paramount power in India. They are a tower of strength to the British Government, and have on critical occasions rendered it valuable and loyal services. It is not therefore politic to continue to view them with distrust. A difficulty is said to have arisen regarding Kashmere, of which the British Government is reported to be meditating an annexation for the purpose of obtaining a safe frontier. Now, it is well known that no foreign invader ever entered India through Kashmere, whose mountains offer an insuperable obstacle to the march of an invading army. And if in addition to this the country were guarded by the Maharajah, there could be no ground for fear. The annexation of Kashmere, if it is really made, will be exceedingly wrong and unjust to the Maharajah, who is a steadfast ally of the British Government, and whose father, after rendering it signal services in the Sikh war, purchased the kingdom at a fair price. Government cannot, without disregarding treaty rights and incurring odium, annex Kashmere.

DACCA PRAKASH,

Native States, Kashmere, and the
British Government.

6. The *Navaribhakar*, of the 8th March, contains a long editorial headed, the "Famine in the North-Western Provinces and Lord Lytton," in which the Editor gives an account of the controversy which is being carried on in the columns of English newspapers by Colonel Osborn, Mr. Caird, and Mr. Elliott on that subject. The supporters of Lord Lytton's action are advised not

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 8th, 1880.

Lord Lytton's Government.

to make any further agitation, as this would but reveal the existence of more faults on his part,—a circumstance which, considering his exalted position as the chief ruler of this vast Empire, and the representative of the noble and impartial English people, is never desirable.

In another part of the article it is remarked that the actions of Government for the last few years had well nigh produced an impression that they were devoid of all moral or political scruples, and that they were equally regardless of the voice of public opinion and the requirements of self-interest. The contentions of the rival political parties in England, however, on the eve of a general election, have shown that the present administration, although regardless of all other considerations, is attentive to its self-interest. The members of the Government are therefore seeking by every means in their power to conceal these defects by throwing dust into the eyes of the public. That these men lack all moral scruples is shown by the fact that they launched the country upon an inequitable Afghan war; that they remained indifferent while hundreds of thousands were dying from starvation and cold in the North-Western Provinces in 1877-78; that they have expended the proceeds of the license tax on the Afghan war; that they levied the tax from persons earning no higher sum than a hundred rupees a year; and that they have gagged the vernacular press. That they lack political scruples and a regard for public opinion is seen from the circumstance that they are supremely apathetic to censure and to the sufferings of the people. That they are mindful of self-interest is our only ground of hope.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SAHACHAR,
March 1st, 1880.

7. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st March, would urge on Government the desirability of changing the present system under which executive and judicial authority is centred in one person; and which is thus productive of grave abuses. Miscarriage of justice frequently results from it, as may be seen by a reference to the Chittagong, Rajshahye, and Monghyr scandals; and this will continue to be the case until District Magistrates are relieved of one portion of their duties. The Editor then proceeds to refer to the case of Dwárkánath Banerji, a contractor under the Road Cess Committee of Purneah, which has been recently disposed of by the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs by order of the High Court. The action of Mr. Hopkins, the Magistrate, and of Mr. Roberts, the Engineer, in this matter is condemned. [The whole of this article is taken from a recent issue of the *Statesman*.]

BHARAT MIHIR.
March 2nd, 1880.

8. Referring to Sir Richard Garth's note on the proposal to make occupancy rights transferable by sale or otherwise, one writing to the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 2nd March, remarks that, if the suggestion be carried out, the tenantry will not be in the least benefited, while the landlords will be deprived of a valuable right. The former will only grow more extravagant in their habits. The writer fully concurs in the view taken of this question by Sir Richard Garth.

BHARAT MIHIR.

The same paper notices the amendments which have been proposed in the License Tax Act, and observes that, if they are adopted, some relief will doubtless be granted to the tax-payers, although their real grievances will not be removed until some means are found for preventing the heartless proceedings of those who may be entrusted with the task of collecting the tax.

9. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* regrets to notice that, instead of seeking to elevate the condition of the helpless tenants in this country by securing them in undisturbed possession of their rights, attempts are now being made to extinguish these long-enjoyed privileges. To promote the interests of some five or six hundred landlords, the rights of as many crores of ryots are proposed to be taken away. Reference is made to Sir Richard Garth's note on the transfer of occupancy rights. The writer does not admit that the Bengal ryots are an improvident class of men; nor does he agree with Sir Richard in holding that, if the right of transferring occupancy rights by sale or otherwise were conferred upon them, they would grow more extravagant in their expenditure. Instead of being a spendthrift, the Bengal ryot is a model of patience, frugality and industry. His earnings are small, and hence his poverty. Nothing but the bestowal upon them of an abiding right in the land will raise their status.

Transfer of occupancy rights.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1880.

10. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 2nd March:—

Sir Ashley Eden.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 2nd, 1880.

Formerly three classes of men had some little independence in this country. These were (1) the Editors of newspapers; (2) the Municipal Commissioners elected by the rate-payers of Calcutta; and (3) the independent members of the Road Cess Committees. Sir Ashley Eden has, one by one, taken away their independence. Of the three classes, Editors of newspapers were the most independent, and Sir Ashley therefore, soon after his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship, put forth efforts to take away their liberty. His speech at Belvedere, in which he abused the Native Editors, will never be forgotten. He next had the Vernacular Press Act passed—a measure which destroyed the independence of the Native Press, and caused a lasting disgrace to Government. In accomplishing this noble (?) work, Maharajah Jotindra Mohan Tagore rendered him his services. Sir Ashley Eden then directed his attention to the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta, whom he now began to take every opportunity of abusing, ridiculing and reproving. Even on the occasion of distributing prizes to the pupils of the Oriental Seminary, Sir Ashley did not forget to cast ridicule upon the Commissioners. He went further and threatened to abolish the elective system in Calcutta. The *Englishman* and the *Mirror* lent him their support on this occasion.

The independence of the non-official members of the Road Cess Committees has at length received His Honor's attention, and he is now seeking, with the aid of the Hon'ble Baboo Kristodas Pal to take away from them the right of appointing officers to these Committees. If his efforts are successful, we shall soon see Kelleys and Robinsons appointed to posts which are now filled by Kalikumárs and Rammohans, and when this state of things is reached, and qualified natives are debarred from positions for which they are eminently fitted, then will the *patriotism* of the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal become known all over the country.

11. The same paper contains the following remarks regarding the statement made by the *Statesman* that in allowing Mr. Batten to make at the public

Mr. Batten's personal allowances.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

cost a trip to the Andamans for the purpose of recruiting his health, Government has been guilty of a misappropriation of public funds:—Many will probably take an entirely different view of the matter, and it is not unlikely that even the *Statesman* would have done this had he not been on bad terms with the Governor-General. Who would believe that Mr. Batten has no connection with the Government of India? Lord Lytton and the Government of India are one. Sir John Strachey is a relation of Lord Lytton, while Mr. Batten is a relation of Sir John Strachey. Hence it follows that

Mr. Batten is related to Government. According to the customs of this country, this may not afford any satisfactory ground of relationship; but according to the usage of English society, this may be possible. Again, Mr. Batten's ill-health may affect the equanimity of Sir John Strachey, and through him of Lord Lytton and—since Lord Lytton and the Government of India are one and the same—of the Government itself. So there is a close connection between Mr. Batten's health and Government. If therefore to recruit his health he has made a trip to the Andamans at the public cost, he has done only what is proper. We hear he is about to proceed to Europe for this purpose. If there is any truth in this statement, Government should pay his passage.

SAMACHARA
CHANDRIKA,
March 4th, 1880.

12. The *Samachar Chandrika*, of the 4th March, contains a highly eulogistic notice of Sir Ashley Eden's public career, and more particularly of his desire to

Sir Ashley Eden.

do good to the people of this country. Many natives who now fill positions of responsibility and honor in the public service owe their rise to Sir Ashley Eden's exertions and to his appreciation of merit. The strictures which have been lately passed by newspapers on his administration in connection with certain recent appointments, and the creation of another grade in the Subordinate Executive Service, are all set down to the malice of the writers. In conclusion, the writer of the notice in the *Chandrika* asks His Honor to appoint Baboo Aghornath Chatterjee, Sub-Registrar of Garbetta, to the post of a Deputy Magistrate. The latter is an able man and fully deserves this promotion.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
March 6th, 1880.

13. Referring to the budget estimate for 1880-81, the *Sulabha Samachar* remarks that it is indeed to be regretted that the excise revenue shows a

The Budget.

gradual increase. The revenue from opium is nearly half of what is derived from land. This does not augur well for the country. The abolition of the export duty on all articles, except rice, will benefit the British merchants, while inflicting loss upon us. The accounts have been wholly cooked by Sir John Strachey, and his object clearly seems to be to ruin the people of this country.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 7th, 1880.

14. There is a feeling of unrest, says the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 7th March, pervading all classes of the people in this country. This is due to the recurrence

Famines and taxation, &c.

of famines; the pressure of taxation; and lastly, the disfavor of Government. On this last head the Editor adverts to the passing of the Vernacular Press Act.

SADHARANI,
March 7th, 1880.

15. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sadharani* of the 7th March:—It is the duty of the Sovereign to conciliate the subjects.

The License Tax; the discontent of the people.

It is not that the Government does not know this, or does not put forth efforts to remove the discontent of the people. The fact, however, is that it is not an easy task to conduct the administration of this vast empire systematically and smoothly; the task is one which to a foreign nation, professing a different creed, and talking a different language from that of the people, is almost impracticable. Hence it is that in spite of their efforts the rulers are not able to remove discontent. They do not somehow hit upon the proper course which ought to be followed. They will not seek the advice of natives, for the latter are not trusted. Hence it is that results are produced which were quite unexpected. Thus, thinking that it was the native newspapers which were disseminating disaffection, Government passed the Vernacular Press Act in one day and at one sitting. The popular mind was filled with grave doubts in consequence of this measure, and thus in seeking to remove discontent, Government

only increased it. The license tax was imposed at a time when a feeling of dissatisfaction had already become prevalent. In the first year of its operation, and owing to inequitable assessments, the tax pressed severely upon the poor. There were riots and universal discontent. Government at length came to see the mistake that had been committed, and fixed the minimum limit of taxable income at Rs. 250.

This limit was subsequently proposed to be further raised to Rs. 500; and a proposal was at the same time made to put a tax upon salaried incomes above a certain limit. The latter proposition has now been abandoned in consequence of an improvement in the finances. Now, most of the English and Vernacular newspapers are opposed to this view, and ask that, since the state of the finances is once more favorable, and certain export duties have been relinquished, the inequitable license tax should be abolished. If this is not found practicable, a tax should be imposed on all incomes, whether derived from salaries, trades, or otherwise, above the limit of Rs. 2,000. The exemption of the salaried classes would otherwise be regarded as an outcome of race partiality. Government should clearly state whether it is intended that the license tax will remain in force for only another year, and its proceeds go to pay for famine relief, or that it will continue to be a permanent source of revenue. In the latter case, the imposition of an income tax, with the limit suggested, is advisable.

16. In reviewing the correspondence between Government and Drs. Ewart and Chevers, which has been lately published, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th March, remarks that the conclusion at

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 8th, 1880.

Sir Ashley Eden and Drs. Ewart and Chevers.

which Sir Ashley Eden has arrived on the subject of hospital expenditure does not seem to be one which, if adopted, will lead to any successful results. If the Committee are convinced that subordinate officers in the hospitals systematically abstract diet and medicine, and thus rob the poor patients, means should be used for checking their malpractices. There should be introduced a more efficient system of supervision. In the absence of this, the reduction of expenditure on hospitals will only have this effect, that as regards diet and medicines the patients will not receive even that which used to reach them before. Our humble opinion on this matter is that the Lieutenant-Governor should have directed only such measures to be taken as would have secured to the sick a supply of what is really prescribed for them by the physicians in charge. Before concluding this article, the Editor condemns the language of the resolution in which the Lieutenant-Governor has reviewed the letters of Drs. Ewart and Chevers. Sir Ashley Eden seems to be extremely impatient of criticism—a characteristic which is quite unworthy of one in his position. He has used very insulting language towards these gentlemen.

17. The same paper remarks that, although Sir Ashley Eden may have been occasionally forced by circumstances to do unpopular acts, still he has at his heart the good of the people of India, and is not

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

Sir Ashley Eden's speech on the budget in the Legislative Council.

prepared to sacrifice their interests for obtaining the favor of the English Ministry. This was made manifest in the speech which Sir Ashley made on the budget in the Indian Legislative Council. The independence of his views as set forth therein has quite disposed the public to forget for the present the injury he did them before. Agreeing fully with the greater part of what fell from His Honor on this occasion, the writer differs from him in maintaining that the cost of the Afghan war should not be thrown upon India.

LOCAL.

SANACHAR,
March 1st, 1880.

18. Adverting to the suffering experienced by the pilgrims on the occasion of the last Basanta Panchamí at the Shrine of Baidyanath, owing to the refusal of the Pandas to accommodate them in their lodging-houses, the *Sahachar* of the 1st March asks Government to direct a searching enquiry into the matter and withdraw the place from the operation of the Pooree Lodging-house Act. [See paragraph 21 of our last Report.]

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 8th, 1880.

19. While noticing with gratification the efforts which are being made by the Government of Sir Ashley Eden to make a railway to Diamond Harbour, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th March, remarks that the direction which is proposed for the line will not much benefit the inhabitants of these parts. If it passes along the western side of Mugra, a good many flourishing villages and trade centres, such as Jeynagor, Barasat, Bahru, Bishnupore, &c., will be placed at a great distance from it. The line could not but prove remunerative if it were so constructed as to attract the large traffic in goods and passengers which is now carried on with Calcutta at a disadvantage.

SAMVAD PURNA-
CHANDRODYA,
March 8th, 1880.

20. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 8th March, remarks that the establishment of an English school at Simla has now become a great necessity. As native employés in the public offices which have hitherto annually removed to this place will henceforth be required to fix their residences here permanently, it is desirable that a school should be set up for the education of their children. Government is asked to attend to this matter.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 13th March 1880.